
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina ■ 5th District

News Release

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**Spratt Hails \$15.7 Million for South Carolina
Schools to Hire New Teachers in Grades 1 - 3**

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) says that \$15.7 million is on its way to South Carolina from the U. S. Department of Education. The money will allow the state to hire new teachers and reduce the size of classes in grades 1-3. Some of the funds were just released; the rest will come in October.

“Our aim is to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to no more than 18 students all across America,” said Spratt. “Smaller classes mean more individual attention, more orderly behavior, and more learning. Everywhere that I’ve explained our class size initiative, I’ve had a positive reaction. And people approve of the emphasis on the primary grades. This is where the foundation for learning is laid.”

Last year, Spratt said the state hired 357 new teachers under the new federal program.

Spratt said school districts in South Carolina can use the funds for hiring teachers in grades 1-3, but up to 15 percent of the money can be used to pay for teacher testing and professional development. School districts that already have class sizes of 18 or fewer students in grades 1-3 can use the money to make further reductions in those grades, to reduce class size in other grades, or to carry out activities to improve teacher quality.

“I think this new program will show that smaller class sizes lead to increased learning,” said Spratt, “and I’m happy to see the funds flowing directly into South Carolina’s classrooms.”

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